

BOOK NOTICES

The Natural History of Ants. By René Antoine Ferchault de Réaumur. Translated with an introduction and notes by William Morton Wheeler. Knopf, New York. \$5.00.

One does not have to be a myrmecologist or even an entomologist to enjoy Professor Wheeler's translation of Réaumur's hitherto unpublished mémoire on ants, or his account of Réaumur's life and associates. One learns of Réaumur's research work—which was not by any means confined to entomology, but embraced mathematics, physics, metallurgy, meteorology, etc., and resulted in contributions of extreme value—of his interest in animal behavior, of his views on classification, which will seem outrageous to many present-day systematists, of his interesting quarrel with Buffon—now that scientists no longer quarrel publicly, at least hardly ever—of his influence on his contemporaries and successors and of many other things about this distinguished and versatile naturalist. And then there is the author's adequately translated and delightful mémoire on ants together with Professor Wheeler's numerous and enlightening annotations. Professor Wheeler comments upon the absence of historical mindedness among entomologists, which is a fact, but I hope they will not persist in carrying this state of mind so far as to fail to read this book.—H. B. WEISS.

Insects and Greek Poetry. By Lafcadio Hearn. The Rudge Press, New York, 1926. \$3.00.

A lecture delivered by Lafcadio Hearn before his Japanese class in English literature and reprinted in book form for the first time. A slim bibelot, as pleasing to look upon and to handle as it is to read.—H. B. W.